MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Though the time for Zero hour was over but this incident is very serious.

[English]

The Government should take note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also express our sorrow. You should direct Government to do something in this regard so that such incidents do not occur in future.

14.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Represent Farmers interests on the Agricultural Price Commission

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is mainly an agricultural country. Its economy is based on agriculture, but Government is very much in different towards the interests of farmers. During the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 prices of various commodities have all along been increasing but there has been negligible increase in the prices of basic agricultural produce of farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to reconstitute Agricultural Price Commission. The Commission should have a representative from the farmers' side any they should get prices on the basis of their cost of production.

(ii) Need to Formulate Concrete Policies for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to make National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission more effective

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, objects and Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country are being finalised. The targets fixed for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last Five Year Plans have not achieved. There hasn't come any expected change in the social educational and economic backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes. The Vacancies reserved for them in Government and administrative services have not been fulfilled. Employment opportunities to educated and uneducated people haven't been ensured. Social equality among the citizens and respect for all in the country has been established even after 50 years of independence. Till now the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggestions of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Welfare have been ignored.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to eliminate all disparities targets for welfare and social-educational-economic security and upliftment of the SCs and STs may be clearly fixed and implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The steps should be taken to make National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe more effective and ensure two seats for Scheduled Castes and one seat for Scheduled Tribes in the Commission.

(iii) Need to Recall the Sacrifices made by Tribal Heroes during the Freedom Struggle

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : The nation is celebrating the 50th year of Independence. We remember those who laid their lives in the struggle for freedom. But there are many who have become the forgotten chapters in the Indian history of freedom struggle. I draw the attention of the Government on the floor of the House, the Tribal heroes of Eastern India whom the Nation is yet to give due recognition. They are Birsa Munda, Nirmal Munda, Dharanidhar, Laxman Naik, Bhima Bhoi, Surendra Sai, Sidhu Kanhu, Rani Gaidinliu and many others who fought fierce battle in the thick jungles of Eastern India.

I would request the Union Government to encourage private entrepreneurs to go for documentary films on these heroes. Government should also come forward to give them befitting respect for their contribution in the freedom struggle.

(iv) Need to Name the National Institute of Mass Communication after Dr. Radha Nath Rath, a Veteran Freedom Fighter of Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Dr. Radha Nath Rath of Orissa is a leading freedom fighter and a veteran journalist. He has left his indelible impression in various fields of life, social, political and cultural. Although he has entered 101st year on last 6th December, he still continues to be the Editor of the leading Oriya daily *The Samaj* founded by late Utkal Mani Gopa Bandhu Das, who was known as the Gandhi of Orissa. In recognition of his selfless services rendered in different fields, his centenary celebration was organised in the State of Orissa and also outside Orissa throughout the year from 6th December, 1995 to 6th December, 1996. In this background, it will be indeed a good gesture and a befitting tribute to this distinguished son of the country to name the National Institute of Mass Communication after him.

(v) Need to clear the backlog in Vacancies for SC/STs

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : The backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in Govt. offices

haven't been filled since Independence till date. In Tenth Lok Sabha, the then Welfare Minister, had said that backlog of vacancies for SCs and STs have been filled within the stipulated time.

I would like to request the Central Government to fill up all the backlog of vacancies for SCs and STs in different Departments within the stipulated time. As per the directions of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions if any senior officer/employee belonging to SC/ST is overlooked in the matter of promotion this case should be considered by the Minister incharge of the Ministry. But that is not being done. Such case should be submitted to the Minister through the Public Relation officer of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The qualified candidates should be appointed on these posts, and these should not be kept vacant on the plea of non-qualification to avoid backlog in future.

(vi) Need to take up Doubling and Electrification of Andal-Sainthia Section of Eastern Railways.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Andal-Sainthia section under Asansol division of Eastern Railway is an old and important rail line which is connecting Bardhaman-Sahibganj loop in one side and Grand chord section on the other side since British age. This route is a principal route connecting district headquarter to the State capital and also a main route for transportation of coal, iron ores and other major minerals and finished products from industrial belt of Asansol-Durgapur and Bihar to N.E. States. But this important section is single and neglected. Track renewal upgradation of track including doubling and electrification is a long pending demand of the people of this area. In view of the growing industrialisation in this area, including Bakreswar Thermal Power Project which is coming up very fast, this section should be a double line section and electrification is necessary from traffic point of view.

I would urge upon the Government to take up doubling and electrification of Andal-Sainthia section immediately for freight movement as well as to increase passenger traffic.

(vii) Need for Immediate Repair and Maintenance of the National Highway No. 47 in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Trivandrum-Kanyakumari NH-47 having the National terminal on one side and the Kerala capital on the other side is one of the busiest highways in the country. National and international tourists, pilgrims and passengers in large numbers travel through this prestigious National Highway to see the Southern most part of our country and for witnessing the beautiful sceneries in the southern most extremity. But the passengers face unpleasant experience due to bad keep up of the Tamil Nadu part of the road for long. In spite of repeated represntations before the Government and concerned authorities, the road is not kept in traffic worthy conditions. It is full of pits, cracks and gullies. There are frequent occurence of accidents. The chronic prevalence of the unworthy condition of the road is causing great concern among the passengers and the general public.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate and urgent steps for the proper maintenance of the Tamil Nadu part of the road at par with the Kerala part of the same, at the earliest.

15.00 hrs.

(viii) Need to declare Ancient Shiva Temple of Mehdar, Distt. Siwan as a National Monement

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about hundred years ago the then king of Nepal had built a temple at Mehdar under Siwan Police Station in Siwan district of Bihar and a pond was also dug which is spread over 200 to 250 acres of land. This place is very important from religious and cultural point of view. Every lakhs of people from North Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Nepal visited here. Keeping in view the importance of this place Mahendra Nath Hault Station has been started there. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to declare the temple and the pond as an archedogical heritage and resuscitate the pond.

(ix) Need to Provide Additional Special Support to Industrial Units in Howrah for Purchase of Pollution Control Devices

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, like in Delhi, several foundries and industrial units are facing disaster due to Supreme Court directives on pollution control measures etc., in Howrah, the industrial city of West Bengal on the bank of the Ganges and several thousands of workers remain jobless now, Like Delhi on the bank of the Yamuna, Howrah on the bank of the Ganges requires additional special support for treatment plant through the Ganga Action Plan and the Government should provide soft loans for special equipment on pollution control devices to the industrial units of Howrah through banks. Otherwise, the Government of India must come forward to negotiate with the Government of West Bengal to shift these units of Howrah to an alternative place with pollution control devices. The Environment and the Industry Ministries of the Government of India, together with the Labour Ministry must decide on a policy to save the workers.